



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 4, 2009
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: City Of Santa Barbara 2009 Youth Leadership Award Recipient

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council congratulate the 2009 Santa Barbara Youth Leader.

DISCUSSION:

On June 1, 2009, the City of Santa Barbara held its 8th Annual Youth Leadership Awards Banquet. The event, hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department, recognized 48 youth in the community who were nominated by over 25 agencies for outstanding community service, academic achievement, or successfully overcoming an obstacle.

During the evening, on behalf of the Mayor, Councilman Grant House announced the 2009 Santa Barbara Youth Leader, Maria Amante, a Dos Pueblos High School junior. Maria was described by many of her contemporaries as being "very well liked," "very helpful to others, both peers and adults alike," and one who "goes out of her way to help others."

Maria is an outstanding member of the Quasar to Sea program sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. She dedicates several community hours to this program. In addition, she ranks among the top 20 in her class and is a member of the honor role. She has clocked over 400 hours of community service, including time spent tutoring other students. Maria accomplished all of this in spite of being homeless with no family support since the 8th grade. Though she could have made excuses for her plight in life, she survived by "couch surfing from friend to friend for several years," setting the standard for making positive things happen for oneself. In spite of her own challenges, she has been extremely supportive to other students, using her struggles to set the example for others.

The Southern California Gas Company has been a strong supporter of youth programs in our community and for the past 2 years has donated to our youth leadership program. Their donation makes it possible to provide a cash award to our Youth Leader. Tim Mahoney, District Manager, will speak on behalf of the Gas Company, recognizing the 2009 Youth Leader.

PREPARED BY: Susan Young, Recreation Supervisor
SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director
APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office